United Nations S/2014/23

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2014

Original: English

Identical letters dated 14 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday morning, Israelis and foreign dignitaries gathered in southern Israel to pay tribute to former Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon. While a nation grieved its fallen leader, rockets began falling a short distance from the funeral service.

In recent days, many people recalled the brave and decisive steps Mr. Sharon took to strengthen Israel and provide Palestinians in the Gaza Strip with the opportunity to build a better future.

Instead, since 2005, Gaza has become a terrorist base used by Hamas to shoot rockets, carry out kidnappings and launch attacks on Israeli citizens. Israel holds Hamas responsible for the recent escalation in violence. I urge the Security Council to condemn the attacks by Hamas, loudly and clearly, before the situation further escalates.

Israel has thus far shown considerable restraint, but it will not allow its citizens to be the ongoing victims of attacks and will continue to take all necessary measures to protect its population.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-20641 (E) 150114

Please recycle